

Appl. No. 09/657,956  
Filed 9/8/2000

Atty Docket JP920000170US1

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 1. (currently amended) A method of accrediting participants to an event, said method  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ a) collecting information from each of said participants;  
4 \_\_\_\_\_ b) recording the information in an accreditation system;  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ c) producing a non-valid pass for each of said participants;  
6 \_\_\_\_\_ d) issuing the respective non-valid passes to said participants; and  
7 \_\_\_\_\_ e) upon arrival of such a each participant at, or proximate an event venue, validating said  
8 non-valid pass for the participant, thereby accrediting said participant, wherein step e) includes  
9 the steps of:  
10 \_\_\_\_\_ updating an accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system; and  
11 \_\_\_\_\_ securing the pass in a security pouch.

1 2. (currently amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 1, comprising the  
2 further step of:  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ upon arrival of such a each participant, verifying information of said participant before  
4 said non-valid pass is validated.

1 3. (currently amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 1, comprising the  
2 further steps of:  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ for foreign participants and before arrival of participants, sending a bulk visa request to  
4 an Immigration Authority; and  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ receiving a visa status from said ~~immigration department~~ Immigration Authority,  
6 allowing said validated pass to serve as a visa.

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1 4. (currently amended) ~~A method according to~~ The method of claim 1, comprising the  
2 further steps of:

3 \_\_\_\_\_ ascribing an accreditation class to each of said participants; and  
4 \_\_\_\_\_ ascribing privileges to each of said accreditation classes.

1 5. (currently amended) Apparatus for accrediting participants to an event, said apparatus  
2 comprising:

3 \_\_\_\_\_ means for collecting information from each of said participants;

4 \_\_\_\_\_ means for recording the information in an accreditation system;

5 \_\_\_\_\_ producing means for producing a non-valid pass for each of said participants;

6 \_\_\_\_\_ issuing means for issuing the respective non-valid passes to said participants; and

7 \_\_\_\_\_ upon a participant's arrival at, or proximate an event venue, validating means for

8 validating said non-valid pass for such a participant upon the participant's arrival at, or

9 proximate an event venue, thereby accrediting said participant, wherein the validating means

10 includes:

11 \_\_\_\_\_ means for updating the accreditation status of the participant in the

12 accreditation system; and

13 \_\_\_\_\_ means for securing the pass in a security pouch.

1 6. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus according to~~ The apparatus of claim 5, further  
2 comprising:

3 \_\_\_\_\_ for foreign participants and before arrival of said participants, means for sending a bulk  
4 visa request to an Immigration Authority; and

5 \_\_\_\_\_ means for receiving a visa status from said Immigration Authority, allowing said  
6 validated pass to serve as a visa.

1 7. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus according to~~ The apparatus of claim 5, further  
2 comprising:

3 \_\_\_\_\_ means for ascribing an accreditation class to each of said participants; and

4 \_\_\_\_\_ means for ascribing privileges to each of said accreditation classes.

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1 8. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus according to~~ The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said  
2 ~~system-apparatus~~ is a distributed system comprising interconnected servers and workstations.

1 9. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-valid passes issued to the participants  
2 form a first portion of a valid pass and the participants are associated with organisations, and  
3 wherein the method comprises the steps of:  
4 producing non-valid passes by the accreditation system for said organisations, wherein  
5 such a non-valid pass for an organisation forms a second portion of a valid pass; and  
6 issuing the non-valid passes to said organisations, so that the organisations may distribute  
7 the second portions to selected ones of the participants associated with the respective  
8 organisations, wherein the validating in step e) uses both the first and second portions of the  
9 pass.

1 10. (new) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the non-valid passes issued to the participants  
2 form a first portion of a valid pass and the participants are associated with organisations;  
3 wherein the producing means is further for producing non-valid passes by the  
4 accreditation system for said organisations, wherein such a non-valid pass for an organisation  
5 forms a second portion of a valid pass; and  
6 wherein the issuing means is further for issuing the non-valid passes to said  
7 organisations, so that the organisations may distribute the second portions to selected ones of the  
8 participants associated with the respective organisations, wherein the validating means uses both  
9 the first and second portions of the pass.

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